

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mozart's *The Magic Flute* opens April 12

Minnesota Opera's co-production with LA Opera brings the highly inventive staging by British theater group 1927 and Komische Oper Berlin to the U.S.

- What:** *The Magic Flute* by composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Sung in German with English captions projected above the stage
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, April 12, 7:30pm Sunday, April 13, 2pm
Tuesday, April 15, 7:30pm Wednesday, April 16, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm Friday, April 18, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 19, 7:30pm Wednesday, April 23, 7:30pm
Sunday, April 27, 2pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at mnopera.org.
- Media:** An online press kit (available our website at mnop.co/files) includes artist headshots, marketing artwork and other useful resources.
Contact Communications Manager Daniel Zillmann to take advantage of the following interview, photo and video opportunities at dress rehearsals at Ordway:
Thursday, April 10, 7:30pm and Friday, April 11, 11am.
- Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts a **Social Media Preview** for bloggers and tweeters on **Thursday, April 10, 5:30pm**. Beginning with refreshments, a cash bar and a pre-rehearsal discussion on the Mezzanine Level at Ordway with a special guest, Minnesota Opera's Head of Music Rob Ainsley, to prepare attendees for the final dress rehearsal of *The Magic Flute*. R.S.V.P. online at mnop.co/preview by April 9.

Minneapolis—Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce its co-production of a dynamic and engaging staging of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with LA Opera. Mozart's masterful comedy about love, truth and the pursuit of enlightenment is richly reimagined in this boundary-busting production. Connecting the tale's enduring meaning with modern metaphor, this extraordinary staging combines live performance and film animation to delve deeply into the opera's surreal magic, odd characters and crazy love.

continued ...

Soprano **LAYLA CLAIRE** (debut) alternates the role of Pamina with **CHRISTIE HAGEMAN** (*Turandot*) opposite tenors **JULIEN BEHR** (debut) and **AARON BLAKE** (debut) as Tamino. Baritones **ANDREW WILKOWSKE** (*Madame Butterfly*) and **JESSE BLUMBERG** (*Wuthering Heights*) alternate the role of the hilarious birdcatcher, Papageno. Soprano **JENNIFER O'LOUGHLIN** makes her Minnesota Opera debut in the iconic role of the Queen of the Night. Resident Artist tenor **JOHN ROBERT LINDSEY** sings the role of the scheming overseer Monastatos and bass **CHRISTIAN ZAREMBA** is the High Priest of the Sun, Sarastro. The original production at **KOMISCHE OPER BERLIN** in 2012 was created by the British theater group **1927**, which *The Guardian* described as: "A perfect mixture of all the things worth loving: silent films, the cabaret of the Weimar Republic, David Lynch and the brothers Grimm." **TOBIAS RIBITZKI** makes his directorial debut and **AARON BREID** (*Turandot*) conducts the **MINNESOTA OPERA ORCHESTRA**.

To learn more about *The Magic Flute*, visit mnop.co/flute. There you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, audio and video clips, ticketing services and other company information.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Aaron Breid+
Production Suzanne Andrade* and Barrie Kosky* for Komische Oper Berlin
Animation Designer Paul Barritt*
Concept 1927 (Suzanne Andrade and Paul Barritt) and Barrie Kosky
Set and Costume Designer Esther Bialas*
Stage Director Tobias Ribitzki*

THE CAST

Tamino, *a prince* Julien Behr* (performs April 12, 13, 15, 17, 19)
..... Aaron Blake* (performs April 16, 18, 23, 27)
Pamina, *daughter of the Queen* Layla Claire* (performs April 12, 13, 15, 17, 19)
..... Christie Hageman+ (performs April 16, 18, 23, 27)
Papageno, *a birdcatcher* Andrew Wilkowske (performs April 12, 13, 15, 17, 19)
..... Jesse Blumberg (performs April 16, 18, 23, 27)
Sarastro, *High Priest of the Sun* Christian Zaremba+
The Queen of the Night Jennifer O'Loughlin*
Three Ladies, *attendants to the Queen* Tricia Van Ee*, Bergen Baker*, Victoria Vargas+
Monastatos, *overseer at the temple* John Robert Lindsey+
Papagena Tracey Engleman*
Two Men in Armor Robb Asklof, Matthew Opitz+

*Minnesota Opera Debut
+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

The 2013–2014 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by Ascent Private Capital Management of U. S. Bank.

Minnesota Opera combines a culture of creativity and fiscal responsibility to produce opera and opera education programs that expand the art form, nurture artists, enrich audiences and contribute to the vitality of the community.

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